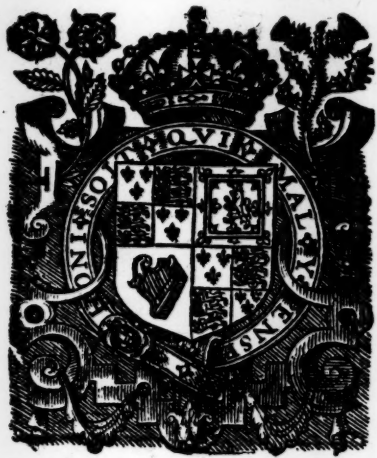




*R. Gt. Brit. & Ireland -
James I. King*

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By the King.

A Proclamation for restraint of killing and eating of Flesh this next Lent, to be executed as well by the Lord Maior within the Citie and Suburbs of London, and by the Officers of the Liberties, and exempt places in and about the same, as by Order to be prescribed through all the Counties of this Realme, to the Iustices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and Officers of Corporate Townes.



Hereas We haue beene enformed of the great disorders heretofore, and especially the last yeere, committed in killing and eating of Flesh in the time of Lent, chiefly in the Citie of London, and the confining parts, and what negligence, or rather contempt hath been shewed in the execution of such Directions, as haue in former yeeres beene conceived and published by our expresse Commandement, for a rule of Order, and Moderation, and the due obseruance of so necessarie a Constitution, as might best sute with the policie of State, and the Lawes and Statutes of this our Realme: It is therefore Our Royall will and pleasure, that a more seuerer & strict course shalbe now vsed,

for the preventing of such ill consequents, as may ensue by the libertie taken of all sorts of people, and the little difference made betwene this and other times, in the vse of those things which were prohibited, and are to serue for a Supply for the whole yeere following. And therefore Wee doe straitly charge and command all persons to whom it may appertaine, to see these Orders following duely obserued and put in execution, vpon paine of Our High displeasure, and such penalties, as by the Lawes of this Our Realme of England, may bee inflicted vpon persons offending against the same.

First, whereas it appeareth, that the chiefe cause of these disorders, hath growne from the Licences, that haue beene graunted to Butchers to kill and vtter Flesh contrary to Law; And that it is plaine, that no Mayor, Iustice of Peace, or other person, of what degree or qualitie soeuer, can graunt any Licence in this kinde; And that the Lords and others of Our Priue Councell doe by Our direction forbear to graunt any such Licence, or to giue way thereunto: Our will and pleasure is vpon the Penalties provided by Law, and such further punishment to be inflicted vpon the offenders, as shall be thought meet, that no such Licence be graunted for the killing or vttering of flesh, and that no Butcher, or other person whatsoener, doe kill, vtter or put to sale any flesh, contrary to the Lawes established and provided in that behalfe.

And for the auoyding of such inconueniences, as haue risen by disorders in this kinde, The Lord Mayor of Our City of London, and euery other Officer and Iustice of Peace, shall call before them, and send for any of the Seruants of any Inholders, Victualers, Cookes, Tauerneers, and keepers of ordinary Tables, and such others that vtter Victuals, to examine them vpon their corporall Oathes, what flesh is, or hath beene, during the Lent season, dressed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houses; which if they shall refuse to doe, then to commit to Prison the said Seruants, so refusing vpon their Oathes to declare the truth.

That the Lord Mayor shall also now presently before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, keepers of ordinary Tables, Victualers, Alehouse-keepers, and Taverners within the Citie and Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such persons as hee shall appoint, meete for that purpose, and shall take Bonds with sufficient Sureties of euery of them in good summes of money, viz. one hundred pounds of the Principall, and the Sureties thirtie pounds apiece, to Our vse, not to dresse any Flesh in their houses this Lent time, for any respect, nor suffer it to bee eaten. The like Bonds with Sureties shalbe taken of the like persons vpon like Penalties, by the Iustices of Peace of Our Citie of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof; and euery of the said Bonds to be certified into Our Exchequer.

And for the Butchers and others that come with victuals of flesh out of the Countrey to the Citie, Our pleasure is, that the Lord Mayor shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates, and other like places in the Suburbes, where flesh may be brought in, to view and search, and to intercept the same: and if any of those watchmen shall be found negligent, and corrupt in his charge, then he to be committed to Prison during the whole Lent.

And to the end the Fishermen may imploy themselves to Sea, with better encouragement then heretofore; And that the Fishmongers may furnish themselves with such store from time to time hereafter, as shall be expedient, aswell for the provision of the Citie, as for selling the same at reasonable rates: Wee will that they take notice of this Our commandement, and constant resolution for the obseruance of Lent, and Fish days, both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

And forasmuch as the vse and libertie now taken, is so farre declined from the abstinence, and moderation of former times, as instead of fasting, and forbearing Suppers vpon Fridayes, both in Lent, and other times, which heretofore was duely obserued: there is now nothing more vsuall, then to make speciall choise of Friday nights for Suppers and entertainment, as wee are certainly informed, and to marke out those dayes for riot and excesse, to the great offence and scandall of Our Government: For the auoyding wherof, as wee thinke it fit, that euery man should be a rule of order to himselfe in his owne house, aswell in respect of the Publique, as of his private ease and commoditie: So doe wee straitly charge and command all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinarie Tables, Victualers, Alehouse-keepers, and Taverners, not to make any Supper for any person or persons whatsoever vpon Friday nights, either in Lent or out of Lent, nor to suffer any Meate to be then drested, vttered, sold, or eaten in their houses, vpon such punishment, as is due to those that shall contemne Our Royall pleasure and Commandement.

And as these Orders are to be executed in the Citie of London, and places neere to the same: So is it Our pleasure and Commandement, that Our Iustices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and all other Officers in Townes Corporate, or in any Liberties, within their Precincts, shall cause the same to be obserued and performed in like manner, with like order for the Bonds to be taken to Our vse, and certified into Our Exchequer. And that no manner of toleration, fauour or conniuenie be vled by any Iustice of Peace, or other Officer, contrary to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation, as both they that shall presume wittingly so to tolerate the offence, as also the partie himselfe offending, will answer the same at their vttermost perils: It being Our expresse pleasure, that Our Lawes in this case shall be hereafter severely executed vpon all offenders whatsoever.

Giuen at Newmarket the nine and twentieth day of Ianuary, in the sixteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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ANNO. M.DC.XVIII.